



GRASSROOTS

The Newsletter of the
Whatcom County
Democratic
Central Committee

Membership Meeting

Thursday, October 15

6:00 – 7:00 pm Dinner

7:00 – 9:00 pm Program

Norway Hall
1419 N. Forest St, Bellingham
(between Champion & Magnolia)

All Democrats Welcome

PROGRAM: Join us for a simple dinner, delectable desserts and an informative update on local campaigns and ballot measures. Dinner is free, but we'll gladly take donations! Evening highlights: blooper videos of candidate forums!

As Democrats, we are dedicated to improving our community both through the choices we make at the ballot box and at home.

This election is all about turnout! We can not stress enough how important it is for Democrats to push as much as they can from this day forward.

We are actively recruiting phone and literature drop volunteers. Call our office or email (info below) to volunteer for the Get-Out-The-Vote effort!

October 2009
Vol 5, Issue 10
info@whatcomdemocrats.com
www.whatcomdemocrats.com
360-647-7661

What's at stake in this election? PLENTY!

Planning for growth
Protecting drinking water
Saving farmland from Development
Creating Good Jobs

But all the great progress we've made in Whatcom County over that last decade could slip away if we can't turn out the votes for our endorsed County Council candidates – Carl Weimer, Ken Mann, Dan McShane and Laurie Caskey-Schreiber.

The political climate is very volatile right now, with fear about job losses, frustration with health care reform on the national level, and confusion about zoning proposals on the local level. It will only take a few disaffected voters to switch to the right, and we'll have lost a majority on the County Council. That's why your effort to get out the vote is vital.

Let's look at the alternative, opponents

Bill Knutzen, Kathy Kershner, Michelle Luke and Mary Beth Teigrob. Where do these four candidates stand on the issues? No one really knows. Luke and Kershner's websites contain vague statements about enhancing the environment, bringing back public process, and applying common sense to government decisions.

Public records demonstrate that Knutzen doesn't vote in local elections. When pressed by a local reporter for an explanation as to why not, he replied, "I'll have to ask my wife."

At the LWV forum, Luke froze in silence for 40 long seconds when asked by Weimer to list her qualifications for public office.

Kershner told the LWV au-

dience, "I know what government needs to do to provide necessary services for people who have challenges and cannot provide for themselves....*I'm not in favor of providing for those who can't.*" Huh?

None of the conservative candidates have a record that voters can examine. And they have little to no experience making public policy decisions. When an elected official has no experience, they'll look to others to advise them.

So who is anxious to get them into office, and advise these neophytes? The four like to present themselves to the media and

continued, page 2

Endorsed Candidates and Ballot Measures

Initiative 1033	NO
Referendum 71	APPROVE
Port of B'ham Comm Dist 1	John Blethen
Port of B'ham Comm Dist 2	Michael McAuley
County Council Dist 1 Pos A	Dan McShane
County Council Dist 2 Pos A	Ken Mann
County Council Dist 3 Pos A	Carl Weimer
Co. Council At-Large	Laurie Caskey-Schreiber
B'ham City Council Ward 2	Gene Knutson
B'ham City Council Ward 4	Stan Snapp
B'ham City Council Ward 6 – Dual Endorsement:	
Catherine Chambers and Michael Lilliquist	
B'ham City Council At-Large	Seth Fleetwood
B'ham School District Pos. 5	Scott Stockburger
Whatcom Library Proposition 1	YES

Ballots mailed October 14, 2009
Must be postmarked no later than November 3

See Forums on TV and Web

The League of Women Voters of Bellingham/Whatcom County held another forum in September for County Council, Port of Bellingham and Bellingham City Council candidates. Because this forum was broadcast live on Cable 10, and will be re-broadcast and available on demand on the web, it was a really important forum for all candidates.

You really should see for yourselves how our endorsed candidates stack up against their opponents. Here are your options:

Video on-demand at

<http://www.cob.org/>
search for "BTV10"

Comcast Cable channel 10,

airing all through October each:
Thursday, 12:30 pm
Saturday, 8:30 am
Sunday, 8 pm

Office Volunteers Needed

Volunteers staff our office under the able guidance of Office Manager Rebekah Lee. We are currently in need of a regularly scheduled office volunteer, 2 hr shift either Monday 12-2p & Wed 12-2p.

PCOs Gear up for GOTV

The PCO Steering Committee will meet at the Cordata Food Co-op, 315 Westerly Road, Bellingham, on October 7, 3-5 pm. All PCOs are welcome. The October agenda will be focused on GOTV and begin thinking about the 2010 precinct caucuses.

INFO: Carole Jacobson, 734-5019

Public Forum – Presidential Electoral College vs. National Popular Vote

Saturday, Oct 24, 2009 – doors open 9:45am - 12noon, Bellingham City Library, Basement Meeting Room, Bellingham

Panel members will be Todd Donovan, WWU Professor, Trent England, Evergreen Freedom Foundation, Sarah Weir, WWU Professor.

Forum Official Co-Sponsors are League of Women Voters of Bellingham/Whatcom County, Whatcom County Republicans, Democrats, and Libertarians. This forum is organized by the bipartisan group Whatcom Fair Voting.

Inexperienced candidates benefit from stealth campaign

Continued from page 1

the public as independent candidates, not involved with special interests, or political organizations.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Last June, the Whatcom County Republican Party Candidate Development Committee minutes (Luanne Van Werven and Chet Dow) stated they were pleased to report that four outstanding candidates, Teigrob, Kershner, Luke and Knutzen, whom they had been working with for several months, had filed to run for county council positions.

Bill Knutzen was endorsed unanimously by the Republicans at the July Central Committee meeting, but neglected to report the endorsement on campaign literature or to media.

The Republicans, Building Industry Association of Whatcom County (BIAWC) and Whatcom Realtors (WAR) have been uncharacteristically quiet during this election cycle. Nevertheless, prominent members of all three organizations have been actively forming new PACs, like Chet Dow's newly formed Rural Neighbors PAC.

A group of property rights supporters recently formed the Whatcom Chapter of Citizens Alliance for Property Rights (CAPR). To signify unity, they wear yellow shirts to public hearings. They are also associated with the big, yellow "Land Grab" signs that are posted in many rural

parts of the county. Bill Quern from the local BIAWC and Perry Eskridge, from the local Realtors Association (WAR) are deeply involved.

The CAPR website proudly proclaims that CAPR envisions "the leaders of supportive organizations coming together to form a central command to plan and carry out mutually agreed upon campaigns." Recently, a rash of new yellow signs reading, "Property Rights under Attack!" popped up surrounded by campaign signs for the conservatives. The website on the property rights sign lacks any identifying information – another anonymous, but well-funded attack against our candidates.

Other stealth campaign tactics include anonymous emails designed to spread lies and misinformation about Caskey-Schreiber, Weimer, McShane and Mann. One email lists 25 Reasons Weimer, Caskey, Mann and McShane have failed the citizens of Whatcom County. Another falsely claimed that Critical Areas Ordinance enforcement was being funded by layoffs of Whatcom County public safety employees. Neither email contains accurate facts.

It will take all of us, talking to our neighbors, friends and co-workers, to answer questions and tell them about the good works of Carl, Ken, Dan and Laurie, to win this election. Please come to the October 15th meeting, and join in the GOTV fun!

Whatcom Democrats Executive Board

email: add@whatcomdemocrats.com

Chair	Natalie McClendon	671-6851	demchair
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Young Democrats	Andrew Lamb	(425) 374-9686	
40 th LD Representative	Bob Burr	671-8862	
42 nd LD Representative	Steve Lydolph	384-5414	

How Will I-1033 Affect Washington's Economy?

I-1033 is professional initiative sponsor Tim Eyman's latest anti-tax proposal. It is based on a Colorado initiative, called TABOR, voters passed and later shelved after education, health care and transportation funding reached a breaking point.

It would place a cap on spending by state and local government based on the previous year's budget. Spending would be allowed to increase by a small percentage based on inflation and population growth, but wouldn't account for costs that outpace inflation—like health care costs, one-time capital investments, veterans returning from war needing additional government services, and a growing older population that pays less into a system they rely on for greater levels of service. Any request for higher tax increases would need voter approval.

Learn what the TABOR Formula did to Colorado:

"Tabor in Colorado basically replaced representative government with a formula, and there is no such thing as a perfect formula that stands the test of time. That's

Your Voice Needed in Letters to the Editor

Thanks for writing and sending in a letter to the editor!

Here's the basic information: All letters should be no more than 200 words – shorter letters are more likely to be included and then read. Include your name and a daytime telephone number. It would be best to submit a letter to more than one newspaper:

Bellingham Herald. Email your letter to: letters@bellinghamherald.com

Cascadia Weekly. Email to: letters@cascadiaweekly.com

Foothills Gazette. Go to www.foothillsgazette.com, and click on submit in the column on the right.

Lynden Tribune. Mail to Lynden Tribune at P.O. Box 153, Lynden WA 98264, or editor@lyndentribune.com

The Northern Light (Blaine & Birch Bay) editor@thenorthernlight.com

All Point Bulletin (Point Roberts) editor@allpointbulletin.com

The Ferndale Record Journal, news@ferndalerecordjournal.com

what we've discovered in Colorado, and we've scrambled a lot and spent an awful lot of money to deal with that problem," says Colorado Republican businessman Rocky Scott.

"One size does not fit all, and that's exactly what TABOR has tried to do." Scott continues, "It's a long-term deal, like a Chinese water torture. You don't experience it in one year or two years or three years. Over time you experience it because of the accumulated lack of investment that's being made.

"I look at TABOR from the perspective of a Republican businessman, and TABOR has negatively impacted economic development in Colorado," says Bob Tointon.

Who Gets Hurt by 1033

Students & Teachers

This year the Legislature slashed school funding by \$1.5 billion, and as many as 3,000 teachers and education employees are facing layoffs. The Eyman's I-1033 will take even more resources away from Washington's classrooms — and Washington's kids.

Seniors & Health Care

Nursing homes, in-home care and adult day health services are being cut despite a growing senior population. 35,000 low-income working people are losing health insurance. Under I-1033 these cuts would be permanent and more cuts will follow.

Everyone!

I-1033 will force deeper cuts across the budget and lock them in for years — meaning more job losses, more hard times for Washington families and a longer delay before our economy recovers.

The Environment

Already this year, the state was forced to cut funding for natural resource programs by 25%. I-1033 will lead to further cuts. The result? More news about park closures; diminished air and water quality as basic protections go unenforced; reduced conservation of natural areas and habitat for fish and wildlife. Efforts to battle climate change and clean up Puget Sound will be at risk. And because I-1033 affects cities and counties, open space and farmland will be threatened as well.

Getting a Handle on Health Care: An Educational Forum

Friday, October 23rd, 7 - 9 pm
St. Luke's Health Education Center,
3333 Squalicum Parkway, Bellingham

Believing that an informed choice is the best choice, Whatcom Coalition 4 Health Care Reform will explain key terms, proposals and concepts in the pending federal legislation and what they mean to you in real world terms.

Speakers are: Dr. Chris Covert-Bowlds, Whatcom County family physician; Julia Weinberg, RN, President of Washington State Nurses Association; and Larry Kalb, President of Health Care for All—Washington. The speakers will be followed by an audience Q&A session.

Whatcom Coalition 4 Health Care Reform, is a broad-based group of private citizens and organizations dedicated to equality of healthcare for all Americans, direct coordination of care between providers and patients, continuity of health care for a lifetime and understanding tax payer subsidies to insurance companies.

For more information contact:
Karen Rice – KriceWC4HC@gmail.com
Rebekah Jane Lee: (360) 201-3431 or Rebekah@msrebekah.com

Sen. Ranker to meet with 40th LD Dems

Saturday, October 10, 11:30am - 2:00pm
at 152 1st Street, Friday Harbor, WA 98250

Kevin Ranker, 40th LD Senate will talk about his first year as a state senator, and give a look forward to 2010. Also a business meeting and adoption of an endorsement policy.

INFO and carpooling: Roni Beall, 510-435-4747

Election Observers Reminder

Whatcom County has a good paper-based vote-by-mail system. Election Observers help ensure that the tally is an open public process. Observing is an informative essential service, requiring only some training and occasional observing October 14 - Nov 24. Anyone interested in being an Observer for the General-09 Tally, please contact Jim Fox (647-7039) now.

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647-7661 or

office@whatcomdemocrats.com



Whatcom County Democrats

215 W. Holly Street, Suite B-27

P.O. Box 3095

Bellingham, WA 98227

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OCTOBER 2009

Check whatcomdemocrats.com for details

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
4 6 pm – MoveOn meeting, 100 E. Maple, Bham	5 Voter Registration Deadline – Change of addresses 6 pm – Ken Mann meet & Greet, NW Indian College log house	6 pm – Jobs with Justice mtg, 1700 N. State St, Bham 8 pm – Young Dems, Rudy's Pizza, 1232 N. State, Bham	3 pm – PCO Steering Cmte, See page 2 5 pm – Green Drinks 6:30 pm – Progressive Network, 13 Prospect St, Bham	12n – Healthcare communication, YWCA 12:30 pm – Candidate Forum, Bham Senior Center 6 pm – Candidate Forum, Lummi I. Grange Hall	9	10 10 am – 42 nd LD Dems, Machinists Hall, 2064 Vista Dr. Ferndale 10 am – Growth/Infill Forum, 2100 Broadway, Bham 11:30 am – 40 th LD Dems Mtg, Friday Harbor. See page 3
11	12 11:30 – Women's Club, Hearthfire Grill, Bellwether Way, Bham 7-9 pm – Finance Cmte mtg, office 7 pm – Film "Rethink Afganistan", 511 E. Holly	13 7 pm – Drinking Liberally, Horseshoe Cafe	14 Ballots Mailed 5:30 pm – Film on Immigration Detention, Pickford	15 12n – MoveOn day of Action, Herald Bdg 6 pm – Cand. Forum, Ferry Terminal 7 pm – Whatcom Dems Mtg, see page 1	16	17 LIT DROP, see page 1 9 am – Lynden Democrats, Homestead Farms restaurant 9:45 am – Ballot Measures & School Bd Forum, Bham Senior Center
18	19	20 1 pm – Great Decisions, 2401 Cornwall, Bham 7 pm – Cordata Forum, Birchwood Church 8 pm – Young Dems, Rudy's Pizza, 1232 N. State, Bham	21 6:30 pm – Candidate Forum, Mt Baker HS	22 7pm – United for National Health- care, 1700 N. State St, Bham	23 7-9 pm – Healthcare Reform Ed, see page 3	24 8:45 am – Electoral College Forum, Bham Library Make-A-Difference Day
25	26 Voter Registration Deadline – new voters only	27 7 pm – Drinking Liberally, Horseshoe Cafe	28 12n – City Club, Northwood Hall, Bham 7 pm – Whatcom Dems E-Board Mtg, Office.	29 5-7 pm – Louise Bjornson retirement party, Squalicum Boathouse	30	31 Halloween